

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 97-640

April 15, 1998

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY
Special Rate Contract with the
Town of Richmond

ORDER

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and HUNT, Commissioners

On September 26, 1997, CMP filed with this Commission a proposed 15 year Customer Service Agreement (CSA) with the Town of Richmond (Richmond) pursuant to Attachment F, Section (C) of its Alternative Rate Plan (ARP). Under this CSA, CMP would provide a complete package of street lighting service, including provision and installation of the lights, energy from dusk to dawn and all maintenance. Pursuant to Section III(C)(2) of the ARP, the deadline for petitions to intervene was October 10, 1997. No petitions requesting intervention were received; therefore there are no intervening parties to this proceeding.

The Commission Staff identified areas of concern with respect to the language of this CSA, particularly with respect to the termination provisions and how the contract is administered once retail competition is underway. The Staff was also concerned with the length of the contract. In discussions with CMP's attorney for this proceeding, the Company indicated its current street lighting rate schedules did not include pricing for the ornamental lights requested by Richmond; therefore the Company entered into the instant contract. The Company noted, however, that it was planning to file revisions to its street lighting rate schedule that would include pricing for such ornamental lights. On November 11, 1997, CMP filed the proposed revisions to its street lighting service with this Commission in Docket No. 97-646. These proposed revisions are currently under review.

Because certain language in the Richmond CSA raises concerns, and because the contract may persist well beyond the beginning of retail competition, we would rather see Richmond served under a Commission approved street lighting rate schedule than the proposed CSA. However, because a street lighting rate schedule that includes such ornamental lights is not available at this time, in order to not delay Richmond's street lighting service, we will allow the contract to take effect under the condition that the contract will expire, and Richmond will be served pursuant to CMP's street lighting rate schedule, as soon as it becomes available. The Company has indicated that this is

an acceptable solution and that it will keep Richmond indifferent to the change.

Accordingly, we

O R D E R

That the CSA filed with this Commission on September 26, 1997 between Central Maine Power Company and the Town of Richmond for street lighting service may go into effect as of the date of this Order. This is conditioned, however, on the requirement that CSA will expire, and Richmond will be served under Central Maine Power Company's street lighting rate schedule, when modifications to that rate schedule are approved that would allow such.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 15th day of April, 1998.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
 Nugent
 Hunt